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DEPARTURE OF THE "WINDWARD."

About July 1st Civil Engineer R. E. Peary, U. S. N., will sail in the steam yacht *Windward* with an expedition which has for its avowed object the discovery of the North Pole.

To this task, which so many have set for themselves and which none have accomplished, Mr. Peary brings the ripest and most extended experience which has ever been brought to bear upon this problem.

During the twelve years which he has devoted to Arctic discovery and exploration his successes have come from the energetic execution of bold plans carefully laid, and though the results attained have been almost unparalleled, they have been reached without loss of life and without extraordinary hardship.

His failures, on the other hand, have overtaken him when he departed from his own clear and logical plans.

In the *Windward* Peary will, after coaling at Sydney, C. B., push on to Inglefield Gulf, his former headquarters, where he will take on board six or eight families of Eskimos—all picked individuals—together with a large supply of walrus meat, to be used later as dog food. Then steaming through Smith Sound, Kane Basin, Robeson and Kennedy channels, he will endeavor to reach Sherard Osborn Fjord, where the *Windward* will land him with his surgeon, his colored man Matthew Henson and his band of Eskimos, with dogs, sledges, equipment, etc., etc.

The ship will then come home if she succeeds in escaping the ice floes, or, if nipped, will winter in the ice wherever caught and come south in the Spring of 1899.

It is understood that while Sherard Osborn Fjord is Peary's objective point at present, he will, if the ice-conditions admit of it, steam still farther north before disembarking, or, if the season is against him, he may be forced to send the ship back before reaching Sherard Osborn Fjord.

Wherever he may land he will at once begin his journey northward, travelling Eskimo fashion with all his household goods on a dog-sledge. In fair weather he will advance steadily along the coast, travelling by the light of the stars and moon, sleeping sometimes in tents, sometimes in snow houses, sometimes in the open under the lee of his sledges.

In this way he hopes to reach the northernmost extremity of Greenland in the early summer of 1899. Then with a band of seasoned companions and trained dogs from which to select the fittest, he will equip a small compact party and start over the sea-ice toward the Pole, hoping to reach that point and return to the land before winter begins again.

Returning southward during the winter of 1899-1900 he will, if necessary or advisable, follow his old route over the ice-cap to Inglesfield Gulf.

If the summer of 1899 should prove to be unfavorable, either in weather or in ice-conditions, Peary will establish his Eskimo colony at the northern end of Greenland and, if necessary, wait for the summer of 1900 or 1901.

In the meantime the *Windward* will go as far north as possible each summer, and leave fresh supplies at certain pre-determined points.

This, in brief, is Mr. Peary's plan. Of the men and equipment selected to carry it out it may be stated that every man, as well as every article of the outfit, might justly be stamped: "Tried and found to be satisfactory."

Beginning with the ship, we have the staunch sealer presented to Mr. Peary by Alfred G. Harmsworth, Esq., of London. In her famous trips to and from Franz Joseph Land in connection with the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition the *Windward* established her reputation for solidity.

To command so worthy a ship Mr. Peary has secured the services of an equally worthy master. Capt. John Bartlett, of Newfoundland, took the Bradford-Hayes Expedition north in the *Panther* as long ago as the sixties, and since 1895 he has been ice-master on the Peary expeditions of 1895-96 and '97.

The surgeon will be a new man, but Henson is second only to the Eskimos in experience of arctic life and methods of travel.

In the way of equipment and supplies Peary carries no superfluous material, but only such articles as he has found by previous experience to be reliable and of value.

His plans command the approval of all good judges, and he sets forth upon his enterprise with the heartiest good wishes.

E. D.